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| FROM: CEFSG Research Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve St. Amant, London U.K. • Richard Laughton, Milton ON Canada • Timothy McTague, Little Compton, RI USA • Tighe McManus, Winnipeg MN Canada | SUBMITTED TO: CWGC Canadian Agency 66 Slater Street Suite 1707 Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4 Att: Dominique Boulais |
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Report Date: 11 March 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

| Casualty Identification: | | Burial Information: | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Confirmed Identity | X | Burial Location Identified | X |
| Most Probable Identity | | Grave Stone Correction | |
| Questionable Identity | | Grave Records Correction | |
| Incorrect Identity | | Request for CWGC Details | |
| Other | | Other | |

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

| Casualty Identification: | | Burial Information: | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Wheeler, Earl Gilbert | i | Dury Mill British Cemetery | link |
| 13 th Bde, 5 th Division CFA | i | Dury, Pas de Calais | i |
| Gunner #2327329 | i | Plot 2 Row E Grave 1 | i |
| September 2, 1918 | link | Date of Burial / Exhumation | |
| Attestation Papers | link | Cemetery Schematic | link |
| Service Record | | Graves Registration Report | 5 |
| Circumstance of Casualty | | Concentration of Grave | |
| CEF Canada Register | 1 | Headstone Register | |
| War Diary Extract(s) | 2 | Casualty Spreadsheet | |
| Area Map(s) | | Trench Map Exhumation | |
| Trench Map(s) | 3 | Grave Stone Photograph | |
| Possible Candidates List | 4 | Grave Stone Inscription | |
| Excluded Candidates List | | Memorial Inscription/Photo | |
| Other | | Other | |

Summary of Findings:

The CWGC records for Dury Mill British Cemetery show that Grave 2.E.1 contains an unknown soldier of the 5th Canadian Division. The only active component of the 5th Division in the Great War 1914-1921 was the 5th Divisional Artillery.

The only soldier not accounted for from the 5th Canadian Division is Driver Earl Gilbert Wheeler who was killed in the Arras-Cambrai Sector on September 2, 1918.

Details of Findings:

The research evidence is conclusive in this case, based on the following:

1. The records of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (Grave Registration Report Form & Headstone Schedule) are clear that the grave located at Plot 2 Row E Grave 1 contains the remains of an UNKNOWN SOLDIER of the 5th Canadian Division.
2. The ORBAT (*Order of Battle*) shows the only section of the 5th Canadian Division that served as an active component of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the Great War of 1914-1921 was the 5th Divisional Artillery. The units of the 5th CFA were:
 - a. 13th Brigade C.F.A. (52nd Field Battery 53rd Field Battery 55th Field Battery 51st Howitzer Battery)
 - b. 14th Brigade C.F.A. (60th Field Battery 61st Field Battery 66th Field Battery 58th Howitzer Battery)
 - c. 5th Division Ammunition Column, Signal Detachment, Mechanical Transport, Train and Reinforcement Depot
3. There were 7 fatalities on September 2, 1918 which included four (4) in the 14th Brigade, two (2) in the 13th Brigade and one (1) in the 5th Trench Mortar Battery. All of the soldiers killed, except one, have known grave locations. Gunner Earl Gilbert Wheeler (of the 13th Brigade) has no known grave and thus his name appears on the Vimy Memorial. The only date upon which there was an unknown soldier killed in action from the 5th Canadian Division in France during the First World War was September 2, 1918.
4. The war diary reports the 13th Brigade of the 5th Divisional Artillery was engaged in the cutting of wire along the Drocourt-Quéant Line in front of Dury on September 1, 1918 and in a major barrage of the Drocourt-Quéant Line on September 2, 1918. During this period, components of the 13th Brigade moved from the vicinity of Boiry-Notre-Dame (51B O4) to the area between Haucourt and Dury (51B P19). It is in this vicinity that it was first reported that six (6) ORs (Other Ranks) had been injured. We know that two of those died, both drivers (Midy Willette and Earl Wheeler).
5. We are able to rely on the Commonwealth War Grave Register, held by Library and Archives Canada, to confirm the date of September 2, 1918. We are not able to review the details of the "Circumstance of Death File" for Driver Wheeler as it is in the group that was lost or destroyed during the Second World War. In this particular case, that is not important as it might be in other situations, as there is only one possible candidate for this grave location.

Action Required:

It is our contention, based on the evidentiary facts, that the only possible remains that can be in the grave located at Dury British Cemetery Plot 2 Row E Grave 1 are those of Driver Earl Gilbert Wheeler. The headstone at that location should be replaced to reflect this new information.

ATTACHMENT #1

Form E. 13
1932/10m 19/9/18 D 425

Reg. No. 2327329. Rank Dvr. Name WHEELER, E.G. File No. R.L.

Unit Canadian Artillery. (13B) 649 - W. 19779 50483

Date of Casualty 2-9-18. Nature and Place of Casualty Missing after Action.
Reported from Base.

Published on D.C.L. No. A. 512. Date 29-3-19. *now for official purposes presumed to have died on or since*

Unconfirmed Burial Report Grave No. Authority Report of Circumstances of Casualty

Received from Unit Forwarded
Date 9-5-19. Ottawa
Next-of-Kin
Written For A.A.G. Written
Date Date

Confirmed Burial Report Grave No. Authority Burial Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin
Ottawa
Next-of-Kin

Revised Burial Report Grave No. Authority Revised Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin
Ottawa
Next-of-Kin

VIMY MEMORIAL

Original Page
Army Form C. 2118-¹

WAR DIARY
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Brise heading not required.)

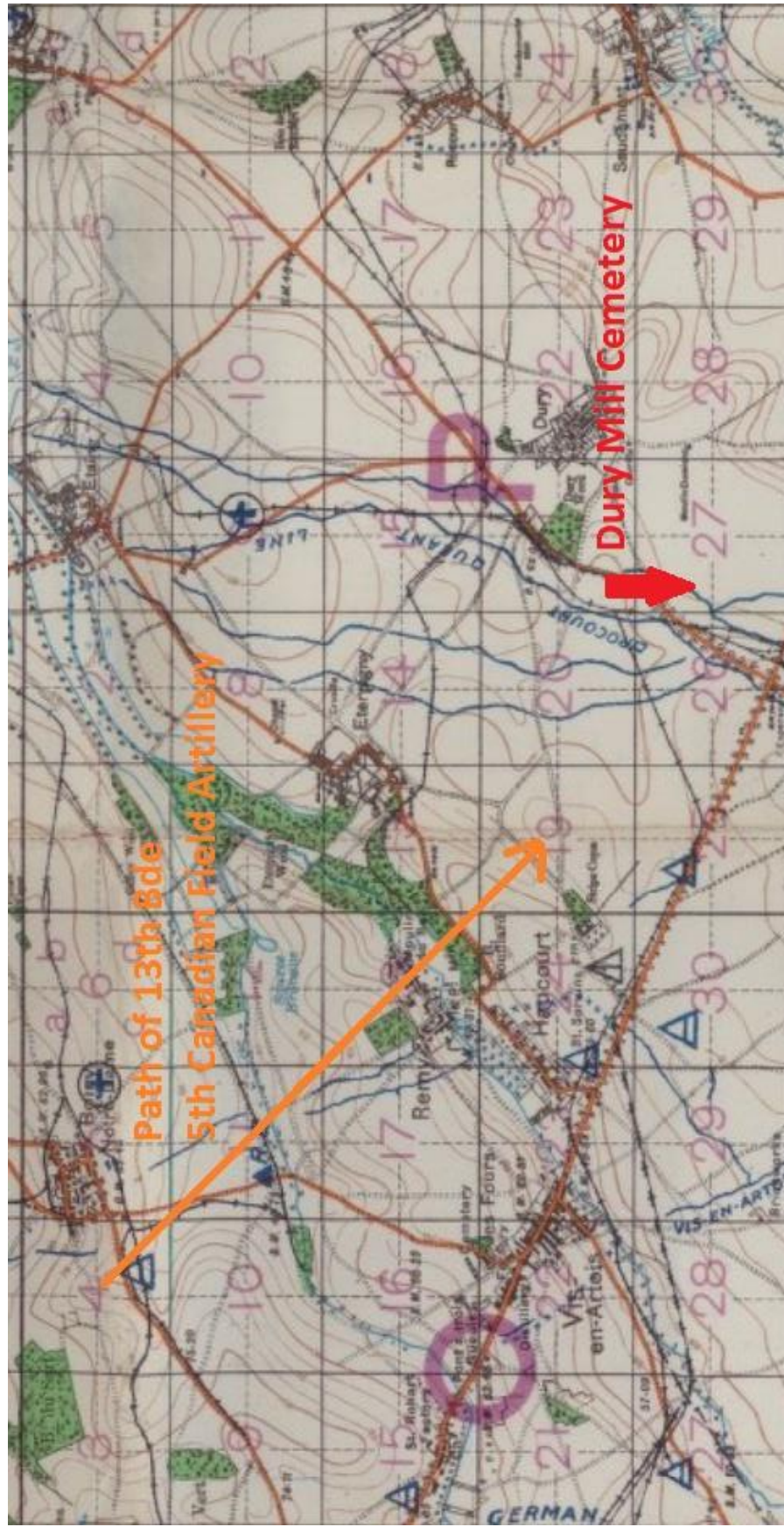
13th Bde. C.F.A.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|-----------|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Morichy | Sept. 1st | 6 am. | Locations of 13 th Bde. C.F.A. 49. 07C 45. 32. 35 th Bty Outd 05. 35. 52 nd . On 9/1/20 53 rd Outd 24. 30. 53 rd 04 d 12. 00. Half batteries were placed in above positions during last night. Lines laid out. 5 th Battery continued cutting wire on Drocont - Ducant line in front of DURY. Letter of congratulation received from 109 th on Drocont - Ducant line at 08. 00. for our support in its attack on Boisil on August 28 th . New Ormond. Under 08. 00. for our support in its attack on Boisil on August 28 th . Inchlight Batteries will bring ammunition in hand at battle position (as above) to 450 yds per 1400 yds per 4. 5 how. Barange map "A" & 4 th British Div. Order comes the attack on the Drocont-Ducant line. Guns shown will be 5 am 2 nd Sept. Orders issued to battery and Synchroton. Carried out at 9 pm. Enemy's activity about normal. Enemy aircraft very active flying special attention to our balloons, one of which he brought down in flames in spite of a very heavy barrage from A.C. & M.H. 1 Capt. 53 rd Bty wounded. | |
| | | 5 am. | Barrage opened up for the attack on Drocont - Ducant line. All guns got away well together. 6. 10 am. Enemy retaliation forward in very heavy but battery positions are untouched. 6. 30 am. Retaliation during dawn. Prisoner taken back. 6. 50 am. Officer has been sent back. 7. 00 am. Wilson lines of HQ battalions ordered to come forward. Barrage fire ceased. 5 th C.D.A. now comes under control of 4 th Canadian Division (transferring from control of 4 th British Division). 10. 30 am. 53 rd Bty instructed to move to a position of observation in Piquet and Capt C. Bruce Hill M.E. a B.C. to make a reconnaissance on this arrival there & send back a report on the suitability of the area for positions for the remainder of the Brigade. It is confirmed that Elang & DURY have been captured by the Drocont-Ducant line. | |
| | | 12. 30 p.m. | Pigeon. Lt. Wilson 53 rd Bty returned with report from Capt Hill. Pigeon reported to be OK for Bty positions. 53 rd Bty ordered to move immediately. RO Signal officer went to Pigeon to select new Bde H.Q. This was established at Pigeon 50. 10. During the afternoon remainder of battery came into action in this area. Dr Mitchell 53 rd Bty (attached 11 th C.I.B.) Lt Atkinson 53 rd Bty. Lt. Wilson 5 th wounded. His wounds 5 th 53 rd 2 53 rd 3. Orders received that Barrage will be required for attack on 2 nd Division (Can. Corps) Bandel mat (A.) to take place 5 am 3 rd Sept. 1918. | |
| | | 11. 30 p.m. | Orders received that Barrage will be required for attack on 2 nd Division (Can. Corps) Bandel mat (A.) to take place 5 am 3 rd Sept. 1918. | |

Approved: Wt. Wright/Maj 25000. 106. D.D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C2118/4

Driver Earl Gilbert Wheeler



ATTACHMENT #4

WRIGHT, CLAUDE MILLARD

Acting Bombardier 1260428 14th Bde. 5th CFA
02/09/1918 LIGNY-ST. FLOCHEL BRITISH CEMETERY, AVERDOINGT III. E. 26.

WALLAS, WILLIAM ALLEN

Sergeant 331883 14th Bde. 5th CFA
02/09/1918 FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY, ARRAS VI. F. 21.

WILLETTE, MIDY

Driver 304657 13th Bde. 5th CFA
02/09/1918 AUBIGNY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION IV. E. 5.

BOOTH, ALBERT LAMBERT 14th Bde. 5th CFA

Gunner 336904
02/09/1918 MONCHY BRITISH CEMETERY, MONCHY-LE-PREUX II. D. 29.

DARRAGH, FRANCIS WILLIAM Trench Mortar Battery, 5th CFA

Gunner 320990
02/09/1918 DURY CRUCIFIX CEMETERY II. D. 35.

CLAPSTONE, LEO 14th Bde. 5th CFA

Corporal 331803
02/09/1918 FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY, ARRAS VI. F. 27.

WHEELER, EARL GILBERT 13th Bde. 5th CFA

Driver 2327329
02/09/1918 VIMY MEMORIAL

ATTACHMENT #5

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. 15-7-20. Army Form W 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 1 District.
"B" No. c.199. REPORT No. 1 SCHEDULE No. 16.c.

COMMUNE:- DURY

PLACE OF BURIAL DURY MILL BRITISH CEMETERY.

Map Reference 51b. P.27. central. 13 OCT 1920

The following are buried here:-

| Regiment | No. | Name | Rank and Initials | Date of Death | Cross Erected or G. R. U'd. | Plot, Row and Grave |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| PLOT 2, ROW "D" (Cont'd) | | | | | | |
| 54/Canadian Bn. | 141834 | PITCHFORD | Pte.C.S. | 6-9-18 | GRud | 25 |
| 54/ do. | 3106305 | LANE | Pte.W.S. | 2/9/18 | cc 1/15/18 | 26 1820 |
| R. A. F. | | CLARKE | 2/Lt.H.W. | 6/9/18 | E | 27 |
| 48/Canadian Bn. | 654352 | KEWENZIE | Pte. I. | " | E | 28 |
| 102/Canadian Bn. | 703402 | DUGUID | Opl. G. | " | E | 29 |
| 4/ Can. L.T.M.B. | 335031 | HARRISON | Pte.C.M. | " | E | 30 |
| 11/Can. L.T.M.B. | 907592 | HOGG | Pte. A. | 2/9/18 | E | 31 1820 |
| 11/ do. | 663541 | DENYESS | Pte. | 6/9/18 | E | 32 |
| 11/ do. | | HARTMAN | Lt. RR. | 2-9-18 | E | 33 |
| 54/Canadian Bn. | 2507334 | CAMPBELL X | Pte. D. | " | GRud | 34 |
| 54/ do. | 772034 | ROOT | Pte. F. | " | GRud | 35 |
| 54/ do. | 237547 | MANLEY | Pte. W. | " | E | 36 |
| 54/ do. | 796645 | SELLAR | Pte.F.H.G. | " | GRud | 37 |
| 102/ do. | 1503993 | BRADFORD ? | Pte. R. | " | E | 38 |
| 102/ do. | 2529418 | PEZZUTO | Pte.L.A. | 2/9/18 | E | 39 1804 |
| 102/ do. | 761271 | FALK | Pte.J.E. | 6/9/18 | E | 40 |
| PLOT 2, ROW "E" | | | | | | |
| 5th Canadian Div. | | UNKNOWN | | | E | 1 |
| 1st Squad.R.A.F. | | UNRECORDED | | | E | 2 |
| R. A. F. | | COLEMAN | 2/Lt. | 6-9-18 | GRud | 3 |
| 54/Canadian Bn. | 237308 | MEAD | Pte.E.W. | " | GRud | 4 |
| 54/ do. | 102896 | COTTON X | Pte. W. | 2. 9. 18 | GRud | 5 |

ENTERED 26/10/20
SLIPS CHECKED Aug 9-11-20

(6 31 5) W1163-P133 45,000 10/17 HWV(P117) Forms/W3372/2
144-1908 70,000 4/18